

IN THE CLAIMS:

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first plate including electron-emitting devices;

a second plate having a fluorescent member forming a substantially rectangular region, said second plate being disposed to face said first plate;

a plurality of spacers disposed between said first plate and said second plate, said spacers being disposed substantially in parallel with each other and each having a longitudinal axis extending in a lengthwise direction thereof;

an outer frame hermetically surrounding a space between said first plate and said second plate; and

a getter ~~being~~ disposed between said first plate and said second plate and within the space, and ~~being~~ proximate to a side of said outer frame that is positioned across an imaginary extension of said spacers in the longitudinal axis direction thereof, wherein said spacers are disposed so that the longitudinal axis of each spacer is substantially parallel to a longer side of the rectangular region formed by said fluorescent member.

10. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said getter is disposed outside a region in which said electron-emitting devices are formed.

11. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein at least one part of said getter is positioned within a region surrounded by the

imaginary extension of two of said spacers in the longitudinal axis direction thereof, said two spacers being in outermost sides.

12. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said getter is a ring-shaped getter.

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13. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a region in which said electron-emitting devices are formed is an approximate rectangle and said spacer is disposed from one of said region to an opposite side of said region.

14. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said electron-emitting devices are field emission type electron-emitting devices.

15. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said electron-emitting devices are surface conduction electron-emitting devices.

16. (Original) The image forming apparatus to claim 9, wherein said getter is disposed on the periphery of at least one corner of said outer frame.

17. (Original) The image forming apparatus to claim 9, wherein said getter is disposed on said first plate.